

# The Sandpaper

## Naval Air Facility El Centro, Ca

Volume 6, Issue 4

Pearl of the Desert

April 2003

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## April was Month of the Military Child



### Kid's Parade, Ice Cream Social and Mini Olympics kicks off Month of the Military Child celebration at NAF

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Being the son or daughter of a service member poses unique challenges and needs. Every April, since 1986, the "Month of the Military Child," has been celebrated to recognize the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them adjust and succeed while growing up around the military.

During the month of April, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department hosted a series of events in celebration of the Military Child Month.

Some of the activities included a basketball tournament at the Base Gym for children ages 6 to 18, a mini Olympics for the CDC children, a kids parade, an



ice cream social at the Base Theatre, a child/parent picnic and an Easter egg hunt.

At the ice cream social on Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by

MWR and the Holtville Athletic Club, the children had a good time.

The children had a lot of fun

Continued on pg 6





## VA reduces SGLI premiums

By YN1 Michael Worely  
*Strike*

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that premiums for the Service members Group Life Insurance will be reduced, giving military members a few extra dollars in their pockets each month.

Beginning in July, the cost for a \$250,000 policy, the maximum coverage will drop from \$20 to \$16.25 monthly, a \$3.75 savings. The largest saving will go to spouses between 35 and 39 years old, whose premiums will be nearly cut in half. Service members currently pay \$13.00 for a \$100,000 family policy. That policy will cost \$7.50 beginning in July. This is a savings \$5.50. The reduced rates mean a military family will save an average of \$100 a year.

The VA estimates that service members collectively will save about \$96 million annually in premiums and \$42 million in family coverage premiums each year. Information about the change in SGLI premiums can be found at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> or call the Office of Service Members Group Life Insurance toll-free at 1-800-419-1473.



Running with a good spirit



Piece of cake



I should be taking the pictures

This is a good way to survey the road

## Running the PFA

Team work

Still going...barely



## 4 Painless Ways To Conserve Energy

By Harry Jacobson  
*Public Works Department*

Utilities (water, electricity and natural gas) consume, on average, 40 percent of the Base operating support budget. If everyone does their part to eliminate energy and water waste, thousands of dollars can be saved and redirected toward supporting operational needs, facility repairs, and new equipment. Below are four easy ways for everyone to help conserve energy at NAF:

1. Try to set room thermostats no lower than 78 degrees when using air conditioning.
2. Turn off lighting when not

needed. Turning off 1,000 watts of lighting for 10 hours per week can save \$47 each year.

3. Water lawns only in the late evening, or early morning hours and do not flood lawns.
4. Turn off your computer and peripherals each night, especially, that "energy hog" monitor. One computer left on all night can waste \$40 or more each year. One medium size copier can waste \$80 or more each year.

If you have a good energy saving idea contact the Base Energy Manager, Harry Jacobson, at 339-2217.

## Go to Seaworld for Free



From May through Veteran's Day November 11, All active duty, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard and National Guardsmen may attend Seaworld for free with up to four of their direct dependents. The offer also includes all coalition forces serving with the U.S. troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Pick up a free entry form at the Cyber Cafe, or call 339-2559 for more details.

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## Good numbers to know

Security	339-3534	Jetmart	339-2339
Front Gate	339-2688	Medical	339-2674
Brown & Root		Hobby shop	339-2689
Service Desk	339-2204	Gym	339-2488
Public Affairs	339-2519	Gear Issue	339-2486
Legal	339-2673	Bowling Alley	339-2575
Chapel	339-2461	Mirage Club	339-2351
CDC	339-2327	Pools	339-2582/2487
Commissary	339-2558	Exchange	339-2478
Housing Office	339-2920	Barber	339-2597





## Community pays tribute to Valley's first war casualty

**By JO2 Carmichael Yopez**  
Editor

Hundreds of Imperial Valley residents gathered at the Terrace Park Cemetery in Holtville to pay tribute to 22-year-old Marine CPL Erik Hernandez Silva on Wednesday April 16. Silva was the first casualty from the Valley to die in the Liberation of Iraq.

*"In the year 2003*

*Erik Silva departed to the war with all his heart.*

*He left to the war  
to fight with Iraq.  
He was born in the town  
of Holtville.*

*This is how the story  
begins."*

These were the beginning words of a ballad that was sung by a trio of musicians at the burial site. It was a ballad his grandfather had composed the night before. The song tells the story of a Marine who left his country and family to go to war and was killed fighting for

freedom. He was brought back to his hometown with a hero's welcome. The song brought tears even to the strongest of heart.

Hundreds of mourners, including representatives from the military and law enforcement community, joined the friends and family of Erik Silva as he was laid to rest.

"This was the most people I've seen attend a funeral," said Olivia Ordonez who belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 9503 organization.

Silva joined the Marine Corps August 19, 1999. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA., since September 2001. He was killed in a firefight in Baghdad on April 3. He is survived by his parents Javier and Gloria Silva, sister Gloria and brothers J.J. and Isaac Silva.

## Korean War Service Medal given to local veterans

**By JO2 Carmichael Yopez**  
Editor

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi and Congressman Bob Filner presented 48 local veterans with the Korean War Service Medal at a ceremony held at the Mirage Club on Friday April 25, 2003.

"I am honored to be in the presence of U.S. Veterans," said Principi. "You have definitely earned this medal today. God bless our great country and all the men and women who defend it today."

Of the 48 medals presented, 39 were given to the actual recipients. The nine remaining medals were given to surviving family members.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was



Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Congressman Filner presented 38 Korean War Medals.

the Southwest High School Color Guard who performed a series of marching drills, concluding with a representation of the flag raising in Iwo Jima.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony. A dinner reception followed the presentation of medals and awards.

### A poem to the men and women who serve this country

*Anonymous*

We have been around so many years  
We have grown to be so strong  
We fight for our world's freedom  
Even when some thing is wrong  
We have always been the ones  
At sea, on land or in the air  
That the people have depended on  
When no one else seems to care  
We come from all around the world  
We have a life-style that is unique  
We have very busy schedules  
We work seven days a week  
We are spread all around the world  
Fighting on land or out at sea  
We are the men and women of  
The worlds greatest country.



# Chapel holds special prayer for troops in Iraq

By J02 Carmichael Yezpe

Editor

On Friday March 28, the Base Chapel held a Special Prayer Service for the men and women engaged in the Liberation of Iraq.

"It is good that we are here today to reflect on our fellow shipmates who are in danger," said Base Chaplain LT Robert Church. "A famous quote reads, 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.' I believe our current struggle in Iraq really is a battle between good and evil. When I hear of executed prisoners, children held hostage so that their fathers will fight on behalf of a brutal regime, when I hear of those who pretend to surrender only to ambush those who would treat them humanely, those who kill their own civilians simply because they attempt to flee the battleground, I cannot help but see this present conflict as a battle between right and

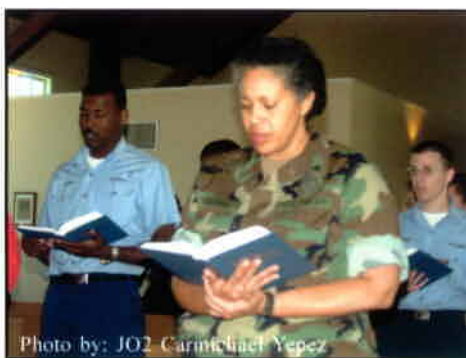


Photo by: J02 Carmichael Yezpe

AK2 Anna O'Quinn a reservist attached to the Security, said the ceremony was very touching.

wrong, good and evil, justice and injustice. Thank God we are doing something," said Church.

Days prior to the ceremony, the Chaplain had requested names of relatives or friends engaged in the Liberation of Iraq to be included in the prayer service. Sixteen names were submitted including two Army Soldiers

from Team Shield who were recently recalled to serve in the Liberation of Iraq. The two Soldiers were LT Bobby Britton and SSGT Jesus Montez.

"We have taken the opportunity to pray for the better men and women of our Nation, men and women who sacrifice years of their lives and sometimes their very lives, for the sake of others. And there are so many more than the ones we have named. So many more who stand for freedom on our behalf in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Turkey and all around the Persian Gulf."

"I thought the ceremony was touching," said AK2 Anna O' Quinn, a reservist attached to Security. "The ceremony helped me to find the words I was looking for to express my thoughts about the war. I feel confident in our shipmates and know the outcome of the war is going to be a positive one for everyone."

## Time management for military families

By Dr. Lynn Flowers

Family Advocacy Representative

Meeting the demands of a military career is not easy, even for single sailors. In today's Navy, many sailors are married. Even though married sailors enjoy the benefits of a family life, they must make time available for family commitments.

Many parents begin the day in a frenzy of activity. They prepare meals, dress and prepare the children for school or daycare, serve as "referee" for the children, manage minor crises, and then report to duty stressed out and exhausted.

Making an informal "Plan of the Day" for yourself and your family may help you to deal with some of these challenges. The Plan does not need to be prepared on a word processor. It can even consist of hand written reminders on post-it notes.

If you frequently don't have enough time to deal with morning hassles, consider getting out of bed a half hour earlier. The extra

sleep is not worth the stress of rushing through your morning routine. Also, remember that many breakfast meals are easy to prepare. For example, you may want to serve cereal during the week and then prepare omelets on weekends when you have more time to enjoy them.

If you wear a uniform as your prepare for the day, put an old shirt over it so that spills and other surprises won't be a problem.

After the duty day has ended and you get home, try to talk with your children about how their day has gone. Most kids enjoy this, and it generally takes only a few minutes. If your children usually have homework, it's helpful to have a regular homework time. Also, it's easier for the children to focus on their studies when parents turn off the television and read or work on written projects.

During dinner, talk about what will be happening the next day. This will help you to prepare the next "Plan of the Day." After



dinner, you can pack school lunches, and put homework and school items in book bags. This will make it easier for children to remember to take these items to school in the morning.

Having a regular bedtime routine for children is a good idea. This would include bathing, brushing teeth, and possibly reading a story.

Spending quality time alone with your spouse is a valuable part of your day. You can also prepare your uniform for the morning, and "finalize" your informal "Plan of the Day" for the next morning.

If you would like further information on time management for parents, you may check out [www.family.com](http://www.family.com). You may also contact the Fleet and Family Support Office at 339-2241.

### Are you sure I didn't stop?



According to Officer Mageery, the corner of B St. and 2nd St. is very popular for drivers not making a complete stop.

It is not that difficult to follow the traffic rules on base, but sometimes we become a little distracted and it becomes very easy to break them. We all know the speed limits on base and know we have stop signs and yield signs. Because traffic is not a major problem here, sometimes we treat the Stop signs like Yield signs and the Yield signs like Stop signs.

It doesn't take much to go a little faster, or forget to make a complete stop. Safety is always first, so we must ensure we pay attention to the rules of the road to avoid getting a ticket, or worst, seriously injuring yourself and others.





# Implementing Homeland Security and Force Protection

By CM2 Eric Magee

Reservist Staff Writer

Today, many of us have heard the terms "homeland security" and "force protection". But what do they really mean and how do they affect our daily lives? The world has changed since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Since then, we have successfully fought two wars and we are still battling against terrorism.

On the homeland security front, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security headed by Secretary Tom Ridge, has defined a new advisory system called the Homeland Security Advisory System. It's a five-step color-coded system, each representing a specific risk of terrorist attack. The lowest condition is Green, which means a low risk of terrorist attacks. Blue - Guarded Condition, means there is a general risk of terrorist attacks. Yellow - Elevated Condition, means there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. Orange - High Condition, is a high risk of terrorist attacks, and Red Condition, is a severe condition of terrorist attacks.

Homeland security mainly affects us at public locations away from the base. When a security posture is in effect it may cause delays when traveling by plane or crossing the border back into the United States. Increased patrols and additional officers at public or high profile places are a common sight.

Just like the Homeland Security Advisory System, the Navy uses a similar system called Force Protection Conditions, or FPCONS. But instead of colors the Navy uses levels of increased



Photo by: CM2 Eric Magee

FC2 (SW) Norman Norred verifies documentation while MA2 Willie Edwards thoroughly inspects the vehicle.

protection.

1) FPCON Normal. This level exists when there is no known threat and security measures are normal.

2) FPCON Alpha. This exists when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against installations and personnel. ID's are checked 100 percent and random vehicle inspections can occur.

3) FPCON Bravo. When an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.

4) FPCON Charlie. When an incident occurs or when intelligence is received indicating that some form of terrorist action is imminent.

5) FPCON Delta. This condition exists when a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence indicates that a terrorist action against a specific location is likely.

When a FPCON level is established by the chain-of-command, supplemental measures can be implemented at the specific DoD location to ensure the highest possible security at any given time. LT Michael Conn, head of the Security Department at NAF El

Centro says "Base Security has the ability to implement additional measures without going up to the next level." It is called, an "added measure" or a "plus condition". For example, we are currently in a Bravo condition but when the Humvee and cover sentry watch were added to the main gate, the FPCON Condition moved up to Bravo Plus.

Each of FPCON levels and the additional measures can have an impact on our base daily routine. Delays at the front gate such as additional vehicle inspections and visitor escorts have affected most of the people living and working on NAF El Centro. "Random vehicle inspections are meant to protect the personnel and assets of the base and not meant to delay or deny access to anyone who is eligible to use the base privileges," said Lt. Conn. "We are working very hard protecting the base while at the same time being sensitive to the needs of the men and women who live and work here."

What you can do to ease security delays:

1) When driving up to the Post Sentry have everyone's ID ready

for presentation.

2) If your vehicle base access sticker is out of date then please stop by Security at Bldg 565 and renew it.

3) Keep a current copy of your vehicle registration and proof of insurance with that vehicle.

4) If you have any visitors coming to the base. Provide an access list to Security. Do this early enough so the proper access list can be generated for the front post.

5) Ensure your visitors have their current vehicle registration and proof of insurance with picture ID ready for the Post Sentry. Let them know that their vehicle is subject to inspection.

6) Rental vehicles can get a temporary pass at Security during normal working hours, or the Post Sentry after hours. Flight line passes must be processed at Security.

7) When flagged for vehicle inspection, open all doors including hood and trunk and have all occupants stand next to the vehicle in plain sight of the inspector.

Although we feel safe on base, we must remain vigilant, prepared and ready to deter terrorist attacks during any of the threat conditions. According to Master-At-Arms First Class Petty Officer Connors, "I sleep well every night knowing that I did my best to protect the people on this base." Commanding Officer Captain Paul Ziegler stated, "We will do our best to minimize delays at the gate, but we must ensure that we are providing the best possible protection to our facilities, personnel and families."

## Do you love sports?

The Sandpaper is looking for volunteer sports writers. If you are involved with the base sports activities and would like to be part of our team let us know.



## CDC parade



# Celebrating the Month

Continued from pg 1

that evening. Besides the ice cream, there was an air bounce castle and a clown who did face painting and entertained the children with balloon figures.

"I had two root beer floats," said 14-year-old David Rodriguez, Jr. "They were good," he added with a mesmerizing grin.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the winner for a family trip to Sea World.

"Woo Hoo," cheered Douglas Morgan, Commanding Officer for the Sea Cadets when

his name was announced as the winner.

Retired World War II Veteran Tony Pitardi, one of the oldest members of the Holtville Athletic Club, said, "When I heard about this event, I couldn't pass up opportunity to help out. Both the Navy and the kids hold a very special place in my heart."

The evening concluded at the theatre with the showing of the movie "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, NAF El Centro's B Street filled with cheering and waving children as they marched in their annual kids parade from the CDC to the flagpole.



## Mini Olympics







## of the Military Child

"I would like to thank everyone for attending," said Marie Marin, Training Coordinator for the CDC. "This is the first time we have had people show up to see the parade."

"It was really cute. It was funny to see the little kids in their red paper hats making a racket with their hand-made noise makers," said Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Martin whose 3-year-old daughter Savanna marched in the parade.

At the Mini Olympics, which was held at the Base Gym, preschoolers and toddlers all proved to be champions as they competed in

a series of relay races, discus throwing, push ups, and sit up competitions.

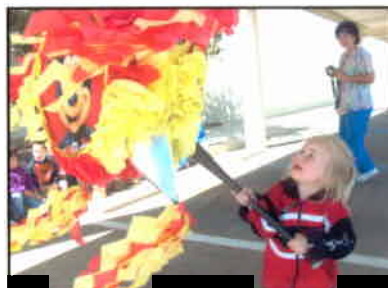
"It think this is great for the children," said Lori Hayes, a parent volunteer. "The children are having a good time, and it is a great way to help them with their motor skills."

The purpose of the Month of the Military Child is not only to celebrate with activities, but also to raise the awareness of child abuse. The Navy recognizes that child mistreatment has short and long-term negative effects on a child's mental health and development, and is committed to preventing this problem in Navy Families.

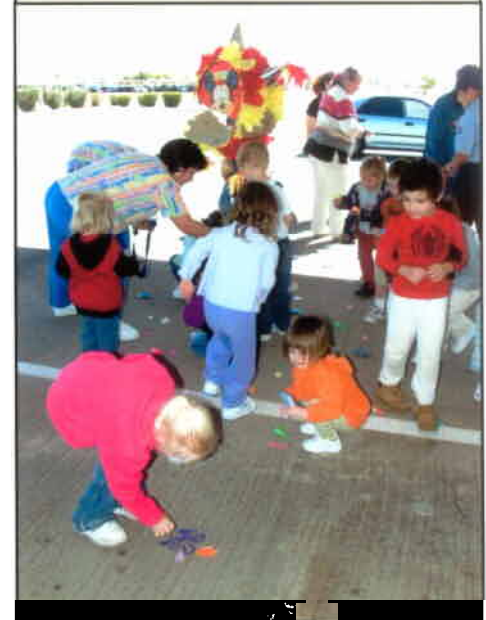
### Ice cream social



**Photo Feature by**  
**LT David Rodriguez**  
**JO2 Carmichael Yopez**



### Housing Pinata





# NAF bids farewell to MWR Sports Coordinator

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

"She is going to be missed by everyone," said Executive Officer Peter Hayes during her farewell luncheon ceremony held at the Bowling Alley on Thursday April 3, where more than 50 colleagues and friends gathered to say their last good-bye.

No one thought they would see tears coming out of Laurie Bauer's eyes, especially not Laurie, the all around American sports girl, who runs marathons, is one of the best female golfers and swims like a dolphin. Not to mention the fact that she bikes around the base a couple of times before showing up for morning PT to motivate Sailors. But this time even when she tried not to cry, tears



Executive Officer Peter Hayes presented Bauer with a plaque with NAF El Centro logo.

poured out of her eyes as friends gathered to give her a last hug. "I will miss you friend," said YN1 Demetra Allen who often worked out with Bauer.

Bauer started working with MWR as a Recreation Aid and then became the Sports Coordinator. She turned the Captain's Cup program into one of the most successful sports programs on base. "I met a lot of good people and I had a lot of fun making friends," Bauer said. "I will definitely miss this place."

Bauer is the Navy spouse of Aviation Ordnaceman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Petty Officer Jay Bauer from Strike. His time has ended here and he has received orders to the USS Abraham Lincoln in Everett, Washington. This will be Bauer's last deployment before retiring. In the meantime Laurie will go to Montana where they have recently purchased a new house.

## Bowlathon breaks the record for Navy Ball Committee

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

In April, the NAF El Centro Navy Ball Committee started off with a record breaking fund raising campaign. This is the first time the committee has earned this amount of money within the first few weeks, collecting almost \$2,000.00 by mid April.

The committee started off with a car wash and made \$160.00, then had its first dunk tank event. "The biggest money maker as of this day was the Bowlathon. It was very successful. Just in this event alone the committee raised more than \$1,500.00," said ITC Jon McPherson with a cheerful grin on his face.

The Bowl-o-thon was a new fund raising idea for this year's season. Twenty-three bowlers volunteered to bowl. Each bowler found sponsors who paid for their bowling by either a flat rate, or per pin contribution. Each bowler played three games, which were then totaled up and multiplied by the amount donated per pin. Bowlers earned anywhere from \$6.00 to \$246.00.

"I didn't think I was going to be able to raise this much money, but I was surprised there were a lot of people willing to sponsor me," said AO3 Yvette Reid from the Weapons Department. "Thanks to this, I was able to raise \$246.00, the most money raised that day. I also won a two-week unlimited free

bowling prize. I am very excited because my husband and I like to bowl a lot."

Every alternating Wednesday the committee holds a car wash and a dunk-tank slam giving you the opportunity to dunk some of your favorite base personnel. Car washes are from 0900 to 1300. Cost is \$5.00 per car \$8.00 for vans and big trucks, one dollar extra for vacuuming. The dunk-tank operates from 1100 to 1300 outside of the Mirage Club and costs \$1 for three balls.

In May, Kellogg Brown and Root will hold a Carne Asada cookout with proceeds going to support the Navy Ball Committee. On the Fourth of July, at the Freedom Fest, which takes place at Imperial Valley College, the committee will have a burger burn.



HM2 Lizette Aznavoorian was one of 23 bowlers who helped raise money for the bowlathon.

The committee's goal is to raise \$8,000.00 before the Navy Ball, which will take place on Saturday, October 18th at the Mirage Club. If you would like to help out your Navy Ball Committee you can do so by participating in their fund raising activities from now until October.



Dale Bower  
Fire Inspector

### Welcome Aboard The Fire Department receives new Fire Inspector

Welcome Aboard: Fire Inspector Dale Bower from San Diego has taken the position as the New Fire Inspector for NAF. Prior to his arrival an inspector had to be sent from San Diego. Also new to the department is Fire Fighter Jack McConnell from Yuma, AZ. Welcome to the NAF! "Hope you like Ice Cream?"



Jack McConnell  
Fire Fighter





# Heat conditions

**Do you know what the flag by the Chapel and the Fitness Center mean?**

**By AGC (SW) Mark Adams**

*Weather Officer*

Summer in El Centro begins earlier than most places in the United States. Daily high temperatures climb rapidly from approximately 85 degrees on April 15<sup>th</sup> to 100 degrees around May 15<sup>th</sup>. By the first day of summer, June 21<sup>st</sup>, the maximum temperature reaches over 105 degrees and can get as high as 115 degrees. When you add the relative humidity into the mix, it can feel like 120 to 135 degrees. People not acclimated to working in temperatures that high may not recognize their susceptibility to heat illnesses such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke.

To assist personnel and their families, a flag warning system has been created to increase awareness of dangerous heat conditions. These flags fly in front of the Fitness Center and in front of the Chapel. Their meanings:

**Green:** Outdoor activity is not restricted due to temperature or relative humidity. The heat index is less than 83 degrees.

**Yellow:** Strenuous exercise, such as close

order drills and physical readiness exercises should be curtailed for those who have not been in the local area for at least four weeks. The temperature index exceeds 85 degrees.

**Red:** All physical training should be halted for those personnel who have not become thoroughly acclimated by at least 12 weeks of living and working in the local area. The heat index exceeds 88 degrees.

**Black:** When the heat index reaches 90 degrees, no physical training is to be conducted, excluding operational commitments not for training purposes. Work details should proceed with extreme caution.

On weekends when the airfield is closed, the weather office is also closed. During this time a white banner will fly beneath the flag condition which is the highest FORECASTED condition during the period the airfield is closed.

When active outdoors, drink plenty of water, even when you do not feel thirsty. Avoid carbonated and caffeinated drinks, or alcoholic beverages. Keep an eye on your shipmates and your children for the signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. These signs include profuse sweating, or lack of sweating in a very hot environment, dizziness or disorientation. In these cases, get the victim into cooler areas immediately and seek immediate medical care.

## Thrift Shop to remain open thanks to volunteer

**By JO2 Carmichael Yopez**

*Editor*

One of the greatest assests for family members on base is the base Thrift Shop. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, residents can find the best bargains and sales especially when its dollar bag day.

For the past several months, there was some concern whether the Thrift Shop would remain in operation once the Snowbirds were gone. They usually run it during the cool months, but once they return back home it falls on a base volunteers. But thanks to Karen Rodriguez who stepped up to the plate, base residents can continue taking advantage of this great resource. "I like working with people," Karen said. "And I like helping out the community anyway I can." Karen's first item on the agenda was the dollar bag sale for kids on Mother's Day, Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to noon.



**By CM2 Eric Magee**

*Reservist Staff Writer*

Department of Defense (DoD) Federal Police Officer Al Le Houllier is cooking up a second career. He has been patrolling NAF for over a year, but his passion for creating culinary delights has encouraged him to start a second part time

## Culinary Cop?

career. He has now become a certified personal chef and caters for parties and special events on his time off.

Officer Le Houllier's background started out in the Navy in the 70's as a Seabee where he was an Equipment Operator. When he got out of the Navy he worked in law enforcement as a California Highway Patrol Officer. After retiring from the CHP in 1997, he took a leave of absence from law inforcement to pursue a career as a chef. In March of 2002 he arrived at NAF. "I enjoy working here," said Le Houllier.

"The people are nice and I like working with the Security team." Officer Le Houllier mentioned he had a rewarding career in law enforcement, but his zeal for

cooking led him to attend the Lenotre Culinary Institute in Houston, TX, where he trained to become a French Chef.

"I call my business the French Chef, because of my French origin and the fact that I love cooking French cuisine," said Officer Le Houllier. "I enjoy creating dishes that stimulate even the faintest senses."

"This is the best darn guacamole I've ever eaten," said Information Systems Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer Wesley Merriweather after tasting guacamole Le Houllier had made from scratch.

"Having a coworker that can cook is a real plus," said fellow DoD Officer Gustavo Ramirez.

Officer/Chef Le Houllier now enjoy both careers working



Officer Le Houllier, a resident of La Quinta, was planning to leave NAF by the end of June, but that has all changed thanks to a 24 percent retention pay raise he just received.

here as a police officer and on his off time, as a personal chef.

For your next party don't be surprised if you get a cop for a chef.



# Volunteers save Sailors thousands in tax returns

By J02 Carmichael Yezpe

Editor

With a few final clicks on the mouse, AO1 Lewis turns to his clients and says, "How does five thousand dollars sound?"

This has become a familiar phrase at the tax center on base thanks to three volunteers who have helped Sailors collect more than \$100,000.00 in tax returns and saving them approximately \$ 9,000.00 in service fees.

Since February 12, Aviation Ordnanceman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Petty Officer Frederico Lewis, Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Petty Officer Emerald Quiver, and Aviation Weapons Department kept busy volunteering their time



Last year AO1 Lewis (left) participated as a volunteer, but this year he was in charge of the program. AO2 Quiver and AO3 Fox were his assistants.

Officer Michael Fox from helping Sailors and their families prepare their tax returns. "Families were overwhelmed

with joy with their returns," said Lewis who ran the VITA program this year. "We had a lot of happy customers, and all we did was give good advice by using our resources and punching in the numbers."

Lewis said that even though they prepared a great number of tax returns (114 to be exact) there are still a lot of people out there who don't know about the program. "There are a lot of advantages to this program. Besides the fact that it is free, it is convenient, because we do it here on base. Returns take no more than two weeks and are directly deposited into customers accounts."

## "Can you score? Are you a star? Or do you guard"

Guard – Score – Star?  
What is this? Some kind  
of sports thing?

By NC1 Pamela Jensen

Command Career Counselor



Well... not this time. GUARD, SCORE and STAR are three reenlistment incentive programs available to Navy personnel.

GUARD 2000 is a program that allows members to have two guaranteed assignments in their career. The first one must be used at the first re-enlistment and the second one is taken prior the start of the 17<sup>th</sup> year of service. GUARD 2K is intended for use when the PRD and the EAOS coincide and offers one of the following guarantees to a valid billet:

(1) Type ship or aircraft, (2) Homeport for sea duty, (3) Shore billet location or (4) Billet at a specific UIC. Training is **not** a GUARD 2K guarantee.

The GUARD 2K program allows the detailer to write orders to a lower priority billet in exchange for the agreement to reenlist for four to six years. The detailer will choose which billet the member will be assigned. For

example: if the member wants orders to the Jacksonville area, the detailer will select the specific billet the member will be assigned.

SCORE is Selected Conversion and Re-enlistment Program and offers career incentives to members who have already re-enlisted at least once and are willing to re-enlist for four to six years in order to convert to an undermanned rating (as specified in the most recent CREO message). Incentives for this program include:

(1) Assignment to Class "A" or Class "C" school with lateral conversion upon school completion and (2) advancement to PO3 or PO2 if the school is on the Career Schools List (CSL). The main program application requirements include: (1) Be in a CREO 2 or CREO 3 rate or NEC, (2) Be a petty officer or a designated E-3, (3) Have between 21 months and 12 years of service, (4) Meet ASVAB requirements for the rate desiring conversion to and (5) Be within one year of EAOS. MILPERSMAN 1160-090 details all the application requirements and procedures.

STAR is the Selective Training and Re-enlistment Program for first-term members which guarantees assignment to a Class "A" or "C" school with possible advancement to PO2 or PO3 upon school completion if the

school is listed on the CSL. Requirements to apply for the STAR program include: (1) Be a petty officer or designated E-3, (2) Be willing to re-enlist for four to six years, (3) Meet ASVAB requirements for desired rate and (4) have between 21 months and 6 years of Naval service (not more than 8 years of total military service if an OSVET).

Additionally, a member may receive a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus (SRB) in conjunction with one of these programs if eligible.

Basic re-enlistment eligibility requirements are: (1) Be recommended for retention on their evaluation, (2) Be willing to re-enlist for two to six years (three years minimum for SRB), (3) Be medically and physically qualified (including PFA), (4) Meet professional growth criteria and (5) Re-enlistment length will not exceed the high year tenure limits for the pay grade.

Please contact a member of your Retention Team for additional information or the following references:

GUARD 2000 – ENLISTED TRANSFER MANUAL chapter 8

SCORE – MILPERSMAN 1160-090

STAR – MILPERSMAN 1160-100

Re-enlistment – MILPERSMAN 1160-030





# NAF Golf Tournament held at Rio Bend



In the background you can notice the wind blowing in the trees.



## Sailor hits longest drive ever recorded

By Jay Underwood

MWR Recreation Director

The Swing into Spring Golf Scramble was held at the Rio Bend Golf Course Resort on Wednesday April 2. The name of the game was two-man best ball.

In this game, each team takes their best shot, and which ever team member hits the best ball, that's the ball they play. The weather was a bit windy (between 25 and 40 knots) but plenty of

players showed up for the game.

"It was one of the windiest games we've ever played in," said Laurie Bauer, MWR Sports Coordinator. "We had a larger turnout for this tournament than we've had even with good weather."

With 18 teams adding to a total of 36 players they struggled with every stroke they hit. "I'm surprised we even finished the tournament," Bauer said. The winds were so treacherous, the ball

would blow back at you.

This didn't stop the players from finishing the game and then to everyone's amazement LTJG Pete Aparico, from the ROICC office, hit the longest drive ever recorded in NAF El Centro history.

"The hit was so long it rolled all the way through the fairway to the end of the green with only ten inches of green left," said Bauer. "It had a little help from the wind, but it is still the longest shot

recorded for the longest drive hole.

The scores were as follows:

Name	Score	P a r
Chris Baker/		
Dennis Abela	60	- 6
Fidel Galindo/		
Joe Coon	65	- 1
Ed Cooney/		
Pete Aparico	69	+ 3
Closest to the pin hole # 4		
Senior Chief Canady.		
Longest Drive LTJG Pete Aparico		

## PSD Corner



By PN1 Luis Merlos-Avila

PSD

### House hunting and TAD Q & A'S

-How many days of permissive TAD may I be authorized?

According to MILPERSMAN article 1320-210, service members are authorized up to a maximum of five working days of house hunting TAD. These five days

may be in addition to the two weekends and holidays before or after the TAD period, which may become a total of ten days.

-Can I take house hunting TAD if I am not authorized to occupy non-government quarters? No.

-Can I combine leave and house hunting TAD? Yes.

-May I be reimbursed for any expenses? No, permissive TAD is at no cost to the Government.

-Can I take my TAD during transit between duty stations? No, permissive TAD may not be combined with a PCS move.

-If I am being separated from the Navy, may I take permissive TAD? No, permissive TAD is only for members changing permanent duty stations.

### GI Bill benefits

-Can a Sailor utilize GI Bill benefits while on active duty? If a Sailor has completed at least 24 months of active duty, a member may use

MGIB payments in conjunction with Tuition Assistance while attending school.

Sailors who choose to use these benefits can file claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) by submitting a VA Form 22-1990 by mail or online. GI Bill benefits, TA claims are processed by an initial submission of the VA Form 22-1990, along with a copy of the completed TA form. For more information and all forms are available at [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov).

### Preventing identity theft

A trend that has become common among thieves in recent years is identity theft. No longer do they rely only on stealing property, now they simply check your garbage for credit card receipts so they can obtain all your personal information. Once they have such information they will try to open new credit

accounts in your name. How can people protect themselves against identity theft? Try some of the following steps:

- Minimize the number of credit and identification cards that you carry. Keep the rest at home in a secure location.

- Keep track of your billing cycles and inquire with your creditors if your bills don't arrive on time.

- Dispose of all forms, including credit card receipts and applications, in a proper manner. In other words, shred them!

- Do not give your personal information or account numbers to anyone unless you are sure they are trustworthy.

- Avoid using passwords or PIN's that are easy to guess, such as your birth date.

- Check your credit report at least once a year.





## Welcome Aboard

Welcome Aboard to our new Sailors and their families:

From left to right front row: ETC (SW) Dianna Swansey (Ops), OS2 (SW) William Yanez (Sec), AC3 Gene Perez (Ops), PC3 (SW) Gloria Jemison (Sec), AMEAN Rashawn Wright (Strike), AZAN Rocky Roberts (Strike).

Back row: AMEAN Nickolas Guthrie (Strike), AMAN Steven Glysson (Strike), AO3 Carlos Alvarado (Weps), FC2 Len Malquist (Sec), AMAA Jesse Williams (Ops), FC2 (SW) Norman Norred (Sec).



### Attention to Quarters

Quarters was held on Thursday April 17 at the Base Theatre. CAPT Paul M. Ziegler presented the following awards.



AC1 Scott Margetta received a Navy Achievement Medal.



AC3 Gene Perez received a Navy Achievement Medal.



MASN (SW/AW) Tavon Cooper received a Navy Achievement Medal.

### Could you sign on the dotted line?

Congratulations to ACC (AW) Edward Ashenfelter who reenlisted on Thursday April 3rd, 2003. The reenlisting Officer was LCDR Randy Jonson at a small ceremony, which took place at Operations. He reenlisted for three years.



This is Ashenfelter's 4th time signing the dotted line.

### Spotlight Baby

Because April was Month of the Military Child we decided to include a Spotlight Baby in this edition. This baby's name is Kamuela, which means Samuel in Hawaiian. He is the son of HM2 Francisco Castellano and wife Mailee. For an eight-month old baby this guy is pretty big. He weighs a whopping 30 pounds, the average baby weighs from 18 to 25. He keeps mom busy chasing him all over the place. One of his favorite hang outs is at the Base Thrift Shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To Kamuela and all the children on base "Happy Month of the Military Child."



### MWR Army Family Appreciation Night



Families of deployed Soldiers enjoyed a night of free bowling thanks to MWR, on Friday March 28.

Recently, many Soldiers from Army Team Shield and Team Engineers were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, so MWR held an appreciation night for the families of those deployed. "We have seven Soldiers who are deployed," said SFC Ernie Tipace NCOIC for Team Shield. "This was a good way to bring the families together while the Soldiers are deployed. I would like to thank MWR for their support. We definitely had a good time."

### MWR May Movie Schedule

The Transporter (PG)  
The Godfather Part 1 (R)  
The Godfather Part 2 (R)  
Dinosaur (PG)  
Catch me if you can (PG-13)  
Ace Vent. Pet Det (PG-13)

Fri May 2  
Sat May 3  
Sat May 3  
Fri May 9  
Sat May 10  
Sat May 12

Power Puff Girls (PG)  
The Hot Chick (PG-13)  
A Guy Thing (PG-13)  
Max Keeble's Big Movie (PG)  
Pay it forward (PG-13)  
Adaptation (R)

Fri May 16  
Sat May 17  
Sat May 17  
Fri May 23  
Sat May 24  
Sat May 24

The Dirty Dozen (None) Fri May 30  
Lord of the Rings: Part 1 Sat May 31  
Lord of the Rings: Part 2 Sat May 31

Movies begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays  
and 5 p.m. on Saturdays